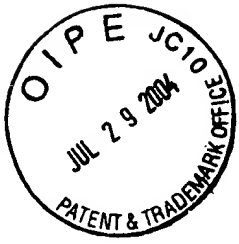


**Dated:**

Docket No.: 00467/000L817-US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Walter G. Birdsell, et al.

Application No.: 09/991,161

Group Art Unit: 3743

Confirmation No.: 3862

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: Fadi H DAHBOUR

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08/02/2004 HLE333 00000017 09991161

**01 FC:1201**

**172.00 OP**

## AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 19, 2004, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.

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